

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-27 are pending. Claims 1, 7, and 13 are amended, and claims 25-27 are added. Claims 1, 7, and 13 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the remarks set forth herein.

Examiner Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by the Examiner Adam Henderson and Ngoc-Yen Vu to Applicants' Representative, Carl T. Thomsen, Reg. No. 50,786, on May 1, 2008. During the interview, Applicants' Representative proposed specific claim amendments to each of independent claims 1, 7, and 13 intended to overcome the Examiners' 133(a) rejection based on the combination of Anderson et al., Matsumoto et al., and newly cited reference Okuzawa.

By way of this Amendment, claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended as discussed and verbally agreed to by the Examiners Henderson and Vu during the interview.

Independent claims 1, 7, and 13 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

If, during further examination of the present application, a discussion with Applicants' Representative would advance the prosecution of the present application, Examiner Henderson is encouraged to contact Carl T. Thomsen (Registration No. 50,786) at 1-703-208-4030 (direct line) at his convenience.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has just now presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being unpatentable over Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,999,637) in view of Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Patent 6,229,566) and Okuzawa (U.S. Patent 4,011,571). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1, 7, and 13

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, each of independent claims 1, 7, and 13 has been amended to recite a combination of steps, including *inter alia*

"wherein the template includes thumbnail images of the recommended composition data sets, and the templates are selected by a user of the digital camera and are downloaded into the digital camera prior to obtaining the images".

On page 3 of the latest Office Action, the Examiner has rejected independent claims 1, 7, and 13 based on the combination of Anderson et al., Matsumoto et al., and Okuzawa.

The Examiner concedes that Anderson et al. fail to give any further details as to the operation of the digital camera. The Examiner then asserts that Matsumoto et al. disclose a digital camera (FIG. 3).

Next, the Examiner relies on Okuzawa (FIGS. 3A-3C) to teach “the desired one of the composition data sets and the image to be obtained to be superimposed on a display mean of the camera”.

Applicants disagree with the Examiner’s assertion that Okuzawa teaches “composition data sets”. A careful review of Okuzawa indicates that this document merely discloses “marks” 1-11, which are simple lines and symbols displayed on the camera representing the proper distances for obtaining images with the camera. The “marks” (lines and symbols) of Okuzawa having nothing to do with “composition data sets”.

Certainly, the “marks” of Okuzawa cannot teach or suggest “the template includes thumbnail images of the recommended composition data sets, and the templates are selected by a user of the digital camera and are downloaded into the digital camera prior to obtaining the images”, as set forth in each of claims 1, 7, and 13 of the present invention.

At least for the reasons described above, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of features set forth in each of independent claims 1, 7, and 13 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Anderson et al., Matsumoto et al., and

Okuzawa. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 7, and 13 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

Dependent claims 25-27 have been added merely to incorporate the subject matter previously contained in independent claims 1, 7, and 13.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to its dependency from an allowable independent claim, as well as for the additional novel limitations set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are respectfully requested.

All claims of the present invention are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

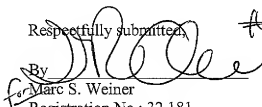
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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